

SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 1905.

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# The Revival of Asiatic Prestige.

It is now more than twenty-three hundred years since HERODOTUS expounded to the assembled Greeks his celebrated theory that the cardinal fact in history was the interaction of Asia and Europe, the pendulum of ascendency swinging now to the East and now to the West. From the fall of Troy to the memorable land and sea fight at Mykale he depicted many a vicissitude, but of course he could not foresee that the grandsons of the men who heard him would witness the destruction of the Persian Empire by ALEXANDER and the penetration of India by the Macedonian phalanx. As little could the Western peoples, which in the nineteenth century despoiled and insulted China and wrenched open the gates of Japan, have expected that in the course of a few decades a Far Eastern nation would exhibit a degree of military and naval efficiency unsurpassed, i equaled, in the annals of mankind.

Had our memories been more tenacious, none of us would have taken for granted, as most of us have, that Asia was beyond the hope of resurrection, doomed to permanent prostration under the European heel. Such, undoubtedly, was the delusion in which the Eastern subjects of the Roman Empire long abided, although such defeats as those of Crassus and Valerian ought to have excited deep misgivings. Everybody imagined that the Oriental wave had spent itself when HANNIBAL was routed at Zama, and nobody could have anticipated that, from the second half of the seventh to near the close of the seventeenth century, Europe would be haunted with the dread of Asiatic invasion and conquest. Yet more than a thousand years were to elapse from the seizure of Roman Syria by a successor of MOHAMMED to SOBIESKI'S repulse of the Turks from before the walls of Vienna. Of all Arvan countries Russia had least reason to arrogate an innate superiority over the Turanian stock. The Grand Dukes of Muscovy had been paying tribute for two centuries to the Mongol rulers of the Golden Horde when the Turks took Constantinople, and some three and a half centuries more were to elapse before the Russians regained control of the Crimea. Even China in the seventeenth century, when the Manchu dynasty was young, drove Muscovite pioneers and merchants out of Manchuria and forced them by treaty to retire behind the Amur River. History, therefore, will but repeat itself when Russia submits to similar boundaries at the command of the Japanese.

It is incontestable, if we consider the size and equipment of the armies despatched by Russia to the scene of war in the Far East, that we have witnessed the most stupendous effort ever yet made by Europe in its age-long struggle with the multitude of disciplined soldiers massed under KUROPATKIN OF LINIE-VITCH, the hoplites of ALEXANDER, the legions of TRAJAN, the mail clad hosts of the Crusaders, seem insignificant and impotent. At one time or another during the last sixteen months Russia has half a million disciplined soldiers, supplied with the ripest products of military science-only to see them succumb to the smashing blows of OYAMA like the snows of Siberia beneath a summer's sun. In the camp, the hospital and the battlefield the Japanese have excelled their European antagonists. They have exhibited the virtues of ancient, medieval and modern soldiers combined, showing themselves at once more dauntless, more chivalrous and more scientific than the Russians.

Here, then, at the outset of the twentieth century, Asiatics have proved themselves capable of beating Europeans in the game of war, alike upon the land and on the ocean. We are witnessing a fresh confirmation of the theory of HERODOTUS that the earth's surface is forever fated to be the theater of racial interaction. The vertiginous rapidity with which the Japanese have assimilated and applied the economical, the mechanical, the military, the naval and the medical science of the West, and the amazing facility with which they have shamed their pretended masters, throw years of Europe than a cycle of Cathay!" A people like the Japanese, which has learned more in thirty years than the Russians have learned in three hundred. may well deem itself qualified to teach. Of this, at all events, we may be certain, that about Japan's qualifications to play the schoolmaster and the paternal autocrat there is not a trace of doubt in Asia.

Nowhere upon the globe does success command homage so profound and obedience so unquestioning as it does among the Asiatics. There is not a bazaar in India, not a felt tent in Turkestan, in which the name of the Mikado is not whispered with mysterious reverence. All differences of creed are sunk under the electrifying influence of racial gratitude and pride. Nations long oppressed, despised and despairing, are awakening from torpor and heaving a

prisals upon Europe has come? May they not, at the very least, look forward to the fulfilment of a hope long dormant, the hope of Asia for the Asiatics?

#### The Discussion as to Speech.

Carelessness regarding proprieties of behavior once deemed requisite in people of decent breeding is generally notable at this period. It has its good side, as we remarked the other day. The impatience of anything that approaches or suggests posing, which is a prime essential of good manners as they are now judged, is a creditable contemporary manifestation. It betokens a higher appreciation of sincerity and simplicity.

Besides, certain formalities of behavior once held to be decorously requisite are now set aside as superfluous affectations. Old time chivalry was all very well as a step in civilization, but underlying it there was a good deal of humbug. Bowing and scraping, courtesying and coquetting are preserved in stage revivals of the old plays of fashion, but in their extremes, even as people who can look back no more than a quarter of a century remember them, they have passed away and have come

to be regarded as somewhat silly. That is all very well. It indicates progress in social discernment and cultivation. Naturalness is now the prime test of good manners. Behave decently because you are decent, is now the law of social intercourse. Thus it happens that even behavior which savors of boorishness is tolerated, on the ground that it is natural; at any rate, as it constitutes a revelation of the real and true character of the man guilty of it, there may be social profit in making the dis-

While this tendency to overthrow artificial formality in favor of simplicity and naturalness has gone on, there has accompanied it carelessness in matters really important as evidences of refinement. People have become slovenly in their speech-"untidy," as Mr. HENRY JAMES calls it. It is not that they use slang; slang may be used appropriately and picturesquely; but that they are indifferent about pronunciation and even grammatical construction. Even if their speech is correct enough, their vocabulary is likely to be poor and cheap, and insufficient to express any considerable range of ideas and thoughts.

Some of our correspondents accuse us of dulness of ear because we said the other day that we had not discovered hereabouts the particular "untidiness to which Mr. HENRY JAMES referred, or the tacking on of "r" to the end of words to which it does not belong. They contend that the habit is glaringly prevalent in New York. It may be, but we have not observed it among educated people. Very likely it may be frequent or usual, as our correspondents assert, among people who pretend to social cultivation. Of course, the pronunciation of "papa" and "mama," with the accent on the first syllable, is common enough, but saying "popper" and "mommer" is another matter.

Why is it any more offensive than the aristocratic English custom of leaving off the "g" in words ending with that letter? This elimination of the "g" has become almost a hall mark of social New York is the largest market of its superiority in England, and American kind in the world, equaling the combined ence of English society are likely to affect it as a sign that they have been there. Not long ago an English ecclesiastic of renown astonished many American hearers of his addresses in this country by his invariable dropping of the "g" in that way.

That is very bad, and it is inexcusable but it is a mere affectation of indifference to correctness of speech on the part of people who know better. The trouble here is that usually the people who misuse the English language do not know for the mastery of Asia. Compared any better. They are prone to mispronunciation and to the use of a vocabulary which to a cultivated ear seems typical of inferior cultivation and unrefined antecedents and associations. Probably they are careless of such criticism, being sustained by their wealth or social consequence. All the same, launched across Lake Baikal more than their title to their assumed social elevation would be clearer if they talked like cultivated people.

#### The Story of New York's Recent Growth.

The belief that the State census will reveal an unusual growth of population in this town since the Federal enumeration of 1900 is undoubtedly well founded, although it is based upon premises incapable of mathematical demonstration The sources of growth are, of course, excess of births over deaths, domestic immigration, and foreign immigration. The addition to the population received from each of these sources has been apparently of exceptional volume.

The vital statistics collected by the Health Department are very defective While the total number of deaths is ac curately reported, a large percentage of births escapes entry on the public records, despite stringent measures to compel registration. There is reason to suppose, however, that the waste of life has been materially reduced since the last Federal census. The Tenement House act of 1901 wrought a great change a lurid light upon the arrogance which in the housing conditions of the lower has flippantly asserted: "Better fifty and middle classes. In its sanitary requirements that law is the most advanced of its kind which has yet been placed on the statute books of any of our American commonwealths. It not only prevented a repetition of unsanitary constructions, but corrected existing evils by enforcing structural alterations in perhaps 40,000 old tenement buildings and by providing for frequent periodic inspections of the hundred and odd thousand tenement houses in which two-thirds of the city's

population lives. A housing reform of such sweeping character must have had a decided effect on the public health, putting a stop to much destruction of life which formerly occurred. The conclusion is unavoidable that the excess of births over deaths is relatively, as well as absolutely, larger to-day than it was before the last Federal census. A conservative estimate sigh of relief. Is it possible, their eyes | would probably place it at 25,000 a year. say to one another, that the day of re- Domestic immigration has been in-

which perhaps deserves first mention is the consolidation of groups of industrial corporations into giant combinations, or trusts, each big enough to control a given line of track throughout the country. These combinations required huge issues of stocks and bonds. New York was the only city in the United States with a banking community strong enough to finance combinations of such size and with a stock market large enough to absorb their securities. This city consequently assumed a relation toward the nation's commerce and industry which it had never before possessed. The consolidated corporations and their numerous constituent companies were impelled to establish their executive headquarters here in order to be in touch with their stock market and banking interests.

Through the rise of the industrial combination New York became the national clearing house for the commerce and manufactures of the United States. Its position in this respect had an important secondary result. The concentrated command over the country's credit resources which followed from its new relation to general business placed New York in the first rank as an international monetary center.

The process of industrial combination culminated in 1901. It added an army of capitalists, professional men and clerks to the city's population. The effect was apparent in the extraordinary efforts made to provide house room for the new arrivals. The years 1901 and 1902 were notable in the building industry for the vast amount of capital invested in skyscraping office structures. luxurious apartment hotels and costly orivate dwellings. For the first time private residences valued as high as a quarter of a million dollars each were built on speculation, so great was the press of out of town capitalists and captains of industry to establish themselves in the fashionable Fifth avenue quarter. In two years the architectural appearance of the downtown and midtown districts was substantially altered by the lavish outlay for expensive construction. Meanwhile, skilled and unskilled man-

ual laborers were attracted in unprecedented numbers. A series of public and semi-public works-railways, tunnels, bridges, Government buildings, roads, schools, parks, harbor improvements-was inaugurated which would require years for completion and involve an expenditure of \$700,000,000. In addition, during the last five years the construction of private buildings has been progressing on a scale demanding an annual outlay of \$100,000,000.

All this construction work was merely incidental and subordinate in importance to the expansion of the city's commerce and industry. By virtue of its superior location as a distributing center, New York has drawn to itself a large and increasing part of the country's light manufacturing, general commerce and trade in luxuries. New York leads or is rapidly overtaking its competitors in some half a dozen great staple markets. We need mention only the dry goods trade, which includes nearly everything that men, women and children wear except shoes. The dry goods trade of chester. During the last five years the expansion of commerce and manufactures has been enormous. The increase of purchasing power given to the country at large by a succession of rich harvests, coupled with high prices, has been felt here with concentrated force.

The extraordinary demand for manual labor, due to activity in various forms of construction and to rapid growth of the dry goods and other markets, was out of all proportion to the supply which domestic immigration could furnish. The bulk of unskilled and a considerable proportion of the skilled labor has had to be drawn from Europe. The alien immigration during 1903 attained a volume unprecedented in the previous history of the United States, and that for the current year promises to be even greater. About three-quarters of the vast army of foreigners which has invaded our shores since the last Federal census came through Ellis Island, and of that number one-third has remained in New York.

The size of our domestic immigration it is impossible even to estimate. The European immigrants who have settled here since the last Federal census represent an annual accretion equal in number to the entire population of noted seaport towns like Charleston, S. C., or Portland, Me. On a conservative reckoning, the total addition to New York's population from all sources since the last Federal census, five years ago, would, if gathered into an independent community, constitute one of the half dozen principal cities in the United States.

# The English Dramatists To-day.

The correspondent of THE SUN who deplores the "artistic exhaustion" of the English playwrights of the present day refers with some suggestion of its superiority to the dramatic supply of earlier times. There is, of course, the implication that the playwrights of those days were superior to the writers for the stage in this country and in England to-day. This invariable tendency to find the past superior to the present is evidently an elementary human emotion It need only be kept in mind to judge

the present fairly. Most observers of the dramatic outwould not be likely to find fault with the best of it. The plays of PINERO, PHILLIPS, BARRIE, SHAW, JONES and MARSHALL would by most judges be accounted superior to the works of Tom ROBERTSON and his contemporaries, even if they are not so certain in their appeal to the public. ROBERTSON'S adaptations from German and French sources seem intolerably conventional and mawkish to-day on their occasional performance, and they were never written for anything but the stage. The same may be said of the plays of SHARE-SPEARE. They were written only to be acted. They possessed the elements of

duced by a variety of causes. That immortality, however, in spite of their original purpose. The ROBERTSON comedies were never diverted from their first use. The same is true of the dramas of all his school. Was any play by Tom TAYLOR, JAMES ALBERY, H. J. BYRON or DION BOUCICAULT ever put into book form when it was not intended for the

use of the actor? These Victorian writers for the stage may have exceeded their successors in technical skill, and in the case of a stage genius like BOUCICAULT they are far in advance of the English playwrights of the day. But in polish of style, faithful observation of life, truthful analysis of character and the other qualities that may distinguish a playwright, the men at the head of their profession to-day are on an equal literary plane with the best of the novelists. Is J. M. BARRIE inferior to anybody, possibly excepting GEORGE MEREDITH? IS ARTHUR PINERO less artistic in his studies of English life than anybody writing in other form of literature than the drama?

The trouble, we fear, is not with the dramatic authors of the day. They are advancing in every artistic phase of their work, even if they cannot interest playgoers to the degree their predecessors

did. The men who write for the stage today are endeavoring to lift their product to the level of what their contemporaries accomplish in other branches of letters. If playgoers determine that the theater shall not be put on this basis, it is not the fault of the dramatists. Those who are true to themselves and their art will not degrade it, even when they might. Some notable instances of public indifference to the best in the contemporary drama might well have discouraged the managers who go on producing what the playwrights offer, in spite of the refusal of the public to consider the theater anything else than a place of entertainment. Sometimes it has to be pretty obvious kind of entertainment, too.

If improvement is needed among the dramatists, it is not to be assured by comparing them unfavorably with their predecessors and bemoaning the quality of their work. More can be accomplished by leading the public to take the same pleasure out of a theatrical performance and judge it by the same standard that it would a novel of contemporary life. By such a criterion the English dramatist of the day will not be found wanting.

#### Governor La Follette's Good Judgment.

The Senate of Wisconsin has refused to confirm the four candidates nominated by Governor LA FOLLETTE for membership in the new State Railway Commission. The Senators are displeased because the Governor named politicians for these offices instead of practical railway men. It was not intended to create a political commission, declare the Senators. They display a and brotherhood which happily is on the invast amount of virtuous indignation because Governor LA FOLLETTE has "used the commission for politics," and they "are at a loss to understand the Governor's action."

Probably no one will take seriously this consternation among the Senators. Railroad rate regulation, railroad taxation, railroad supervision—these are the steps by which Mr. LA FOLLETTE has climbed from an obscure station to powomen who come home after an experi- dry goods trades of London and Man- litical prominence and importance in climb still higher, for he believes firmly that on March 4, 1909, he will deliver the inaugural address of the President of the United States.

Besides, and leaving out of account Mr. LA FOLLETTE'S extremely interesting personality, are not all railway commissions political, and the whole railway supervision propaganda politics? If not, what in the world are they?

# Judicial Doctors of Laws.

Union College did honor to its best raditions on Wednesday in conferring the honorary degree of LL. D. upon Chief Judge EDGAR M. CULLEN of the Court of Appeals of this State. Whatever may be said of the indiscriminate bestowal of this degree by all sorts of institutions upon all sorts and conditions of men, nothing but commendation should greet its award by a prominent university to the most distinguished lawver upon the New York bench.

Indeed, if honorary degrees are to be conferred at all it would seem eminently fitting that they should be awarded to those who have achieved distinction in that special field of learning and attainment to which each particular degree belongs; and it is surely appropriate that worthy service upon the bench in administering the law should occasionally be recognized by conferring the degree of doctor of laws upon a Judge.

Our colleges and universities are no open to criticism for having been too generous to the judiciary in this respect. Including the members of the Court of Appeals, there are more than seventyfive Judges of the higher courts in the State of New York, and yet comparatively few of them have been the recipents of the LL. D. degree.

Chief Judge Cullen had already received the degree from Columbia University, about ten years ago. IRVING G. VANN of Syracuse, one of his associates on the bench of the Court of Appeals, is an LL. D. of Hamilton College, Syracuse University and Yale. So far as we know none of the other members of that tribunal has been similarly honwith which it is not possible to quarrel, ored. Of the Supreme Court Justices sitting in the Greater New York the only possessors of the LL. D. degree whom we know of are Morgan J. O'BRIEN, put of the day in London and New York | from St. John's College at Fordham and Columbia; EDWARD PATTERSON, from Williams College and Hobart: GEORGE I. INGRAHAM, from Columbia: CHESTER B. McLaughlin, from Middlebury College, Vt.; GEORGE C. BARRETT, from Racine College, Wis.; CHARLES H. TRUAX, from Hamilton, and WILLARD BART-LETT, from Hamilton, New York Uni-

versity and Columbia. There are many others equally de serving of the honor, and our higher institutions of learning never perform more graceful or appropriate act than when they confer the degree of doctor of laws upon such of their alumni as have distinguished themselves on the

bench in the interpretation and application of the laws.

The movement in Chicago to acquire the Peace Conference is advertised as "having the backing of \$1,000,000,000 of capital. What do Japan and Russia care for that? The way for the "backers" to make a real impression is to offer to guarantee the war ndemnity, up to the billion.

The unwritten rule of practical politics; we believe, is that every citizen who can control at least one vote besides his own, or who has contributed more than \$5 to the campaign fund, is entitled to be styled "The Honorable." The Constitution of Massachusetts, which is very amiable in the matter of titles, expressly designates the Lieutenant-Governor of that Commonwealth as "His Honor." The general principles, however, that fix the line between the Honorables and the non-Honorables, in office and elsewhere, are inchoate and sadly in need of

authoritative determination. We wish we could say that President ROOSEVELT, in his letter of Friday last appointing the committee to investigate the several Executive Departments, had done something to simplify this important question. On the contrary, the President adds to the general perplexity by officially designating as follows the four members of the

"The Hon. FRANK H. HITCHCOCK, First Assistan ostmaster-General;
"The Hon. LAWRENCE A. MURRAT, Assistan Secretary of Commerce and Labor

"The Hon. JAMES R. GARFIELD, Commissioner of Corporations; and. GIFFORD PINCHOT, Porester, Department of GIFFORD PINCHOT occupies just as much space in "Who's Who" as the Hon. JAMES R.

GARFIELD, and infinitely more than the Hon. LAWRENCE A. MURRAY, who doesn't appear there at all. GIFFORD PINCHOT'S official place in the Executive hierarchy seems to be on a level with the Hon. JAMES R. GARFIELD's, each being at the head of a bureau of a Department. He has, probably, as much expert knowledge in his special line of professional activity as any one of the other three. Why, then, should the President bestow on them the style of "The Honorable" and withhold it from GIFFORD

PINCHOT, Forester? It looks like a case of unreasonable discrimination.

### ANOTHER LAY SERMON. Religion an Instinctive Aspiration and

Stimulant in Man. To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: In the remarkable discussion on religious problems now being held in THE SUN nothing is more noticeable than the entire absence of bitter criticism and intolerance. Your correspondents who are perplexed with doubts in trying to solve the problem of the universe are anxious, not scornful.

Giving expression to questionings not mean that the searcher after truth has lost his faith in God or his belief in immortality, but it does mean that the spread of free inquiry has unshackled his m traditional errors which have bred bitter controversies in the past. Many of your readers of older years will remember the narrow spirited bigotry and selfishness hibited in many a country town by overzealous members of the several churches there and the utter absence of that spirit of charity crease these days.

The search for the unknowable will continue as long as the human mind endures, but after all what does it profit a man? old question by the patriarch Job, "Canst

tinue as long as the numan mind endures, but after all what does it profit a man? The old question by the patriarch Job, "Canst thou by searching find out the Almighty?" applies to-day as of yore; and our sight will always be hid by a cloud. Still, the plant grows in the mist and under the clouds as truly as under sunshine.

Call religion mere sentiment, superstition or an illusion, still the fact remains that it is the bulwark of our nation, the foundation of the American home. It teaches respect for old age, reverence for womanhood, consideration for children; it builds hospitals and colleges and feeds and clothes the poverty-stricken. To its adherence to these principles does this great nation owe its progress and preeminence, and to withdraw the restraining influences of the Gospel from the passions of men would prove disastrous.

Ask the devout churchman, be he a Catholic or a Protestant, as to the proofs of Christianity, and he will tell you that his religion is true because it satisfies the soul. As of old, the great body of workers "hunger and thirst after righteousness." Faith in God is still a living force among men.

If you do not believe it, look at the great number of communicants who go forth every Sunday morning to throng the aisles of every Catholic church in your city; those who "labor and are heavy laden." No human agency, no gift of tongue, draws these tired people out of their beds so early on a cold, stormy day to worship. Is faith dead when a refined Christian woman will stand on a street corner by the hour on a bitter December day ringing a bell, asking alms to feed the poor, as many a member of the Salvation Army does yearly, "In His name?"

Never has the Church been presented with such magnificent opportunities for helping humanity as at the present; but if the people receive a stone when they crave bread, they will seek righteousness from other and unexpected sources. The Christian is not afraid of the truth, but Pilate's question, "What is truth?" and "Where is it to be found?" is as

is as potent to-day as ever. Contra answers will confuse the seeker, who of insincerity and hypocrisy, but eventually he will come to his own.

JOHN M. HOTSRADT.

#### STAMPORD, Conn., June 16. Where Are the Census Takers?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I have read about a census of New York having been begun on the 1st of June, but now it is June 17 and I have been visited by no census enume rator; and many of my acquaintances tell me that none has yet appeared at their houses. What is the meaning of it? Is the fact that an apportionment for State Senators and Assemblymen is to be based on the census an explanation of the apparent laxity?
New York, June 17. Cir.

The Italian Garden. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I am glad to see a protest against the numerous bootblack stands in City Hall Park. When I saw the first one sprout I knew that others would soon appear. because if it was possible for one man to get a per mit for such a purpose others could and would

They should be carted away at once, and the many flaring news stands along with them.

If our worthy Mayor will see that this is done at once the people of this town will confer a degree upon him that will put in the shade the one got the other day at Princeton. W. S. J.

A Boston Financier's Story About Mr. Ryan TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Several years ago I had occasion to present to Mr. Thomas F. Ryan a business proposition of considerable im-portance and merit. It appealed to his business sagacity, but although it was very tempting he said to me: "I am interested with Mr. — in an-other matter, not in any way to be disturbed by your project, but rather than cause suspicion in his mind of my loyalty I would not touch it if in sured a profit of a million dollars in advance."

I mention the above incident at this time as indicative of his character as it is known to his

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: This is from a book catalogue published by Francis Edwards.

"The United States: The Period of Reconstruc I have heard that there are yet a few of the "un-reconstructed" south of Mason and Dixon's line, but that the reconstruction period lasted until five years ago in American history, "as she is wrote" in England, is certainly worthy of note.

NEW YORK, June 17. ARTHUR E. BOSTWICE.

Plain Common Sense From Indiana. From the Marion Chronicle.

One thing that the Bryans and the Watsons and the Debsea and all the other communists fixed to learn is that you can't bestow happiness upon human beings by transforming the Government into a sational informacy.

Rhansody of a Maxazine Writer in the

Twenty Miles an Hour Days of 1840. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The best poetry of the American people has not been written on paper and published in books; it is recorded in living characters upon the broad page of a continent. We have lived literature more grand and more enduring than the accumulated volumes of the world' libraries. Our best strength has been given to the conquest of a continent, carving out of the rough block of fate the destiny of a new nation. It has been an epic of ress, in which the dream of yesterday is the reality of to-day, to-morrow material the historian In the warfare with time and space we have achieved results wherein fertility of invention and energy and determina-tion in execution are proved superior to that

Carlyle coveted for mankind. No one reads Cooper, but every one has read him; and as one reads of the latest achievement in fast railroad travel. New York to Chicago in eighteen hours, how naturally the story recalls the experience of Corny Littlepage, setting out for college. It was just before the middle of the eighteenth century, and the "College of New Jersey" was doing business at its Elizabethtown stand.

Fortunatus's hat whose imaginary powers

tury, and the "College of New Jersey" was doing business at its Elizabethtown stand. The preparations for the young student's journey of less than a hundred miles were more elaborate than many a globe trotter now makes for a tour of the world; and the fond mother wept as she thought of her young hopeful exposed to the dread perils of the "voyage" over the North River! The Jersey commuter of to-day, if he does not remember the novelist's description of this occasion, should blow the dust off his "Littlepage Manuscripts," and reread it.

"Railroads"—tramways for horse drawn about that time that steam travel began, both in this country and in England. The first American locomotive, says the historian of "The Marvels of Modern Mechanism," was used in 1829 by the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company. The engineer invited any one in a large crowd of enthusiastic but timid witnesses to accompany him on the first trip. "No one accepted, and pulling the throttle wide open he said 'good-by' to the crowd and dashed away from the village, around the abrupt curve and over the trembling trestle, amid deafening cheers; at the rate of ten miles an hour.

Justin McCarthy, in his "History of Our Own Times," tells how in the opening year of Victoria's reign, 1837, a railroad train had actually been run for a distance at the rate—I quote the figures from memory, without being able at present to verify them—of

year of victoria's reign, 1837, a rainroad than had actually been run for a distance at the rate—I quote the figures from memory, without being able at present to verify them—of thirty-five miles an hour!

The story of railroad development in America is more interesting than the average romance of fiction—from the crude beginnings of less than a century ago to the mighty systems of to-day, from twenty-three miles of steam railroad in operation in 1830 to nearly 200,000 in 1900—but it cannot be told here. My purpose in writing this letter was to lay before you the following extract from the New York Mirror, 1840, which will no doubt interest railroad travelers of to-day.

New YORK, June 16.

# RAILROAD TRAVELING.

The poetry of traveling is gone-the romance of roadside adventure is at an end: in vain will the odern novelist attempt to distinguish his heroine n the passing train-forms and faces glide by like the mingled colors on a schoolboy's whipping top-an amalgamated mass of hues which the rapid motion seems to blend into one. Elopements may now be made in safety, if the lovers can only se cure the first train: asthmatical old guardians can never give chase—the rapidity with which the hicles move will prevent the short-winded from breathing; no being overtaken by brothers; dueling and changing horses and separate rooms are at an end—our light literature must now become woven with steam—our incidents must arise from blow-ups, and love be made over broken legs while here the novelist will have to record the fall-ing in of a tunnel, the only chance left "for a touch at the sublime." The good old days of chance courtship have

from the coach, there was an opening for some gallant to leap off and return it with a good grace. But now there is no stopping; one might as well call upon the winds as upon the conductor to check the speed of his fiery dragon: 'tis as much as the guard can do to make him hear with his shrill whistle: ere one can say, "My hat's blown off," we have shot a mile ahead, and the conductor mourns the accident at the next station; and there is no lack of sympathy at the distance of thirty miles. The tables within the carriages are like those which held the feasts of the enchanters; whatever is laid away by a viewiess spirit, and carried you wot not whither. Wo be unto the wight that layeth down looseneth his pocketbook to spread out his letters. for they will be given as a prey unto the winds, unless he carrieth his own curtaining, or is rich there are those many gloomy tunnels opening their grim portals to receive us, and darkening around us like the valley and shadow of death. You are immersed within the bowels of a black cavern—the groaning monster which has borne you away utters his most hellish moans in the darkness-flakes of fire here and there flutter along the low-browed vault—the earth seems rocking beneath, while one dull, prolonged echo throws back the continued clatter. Perchance a solitary lamp is fixed in the roof of your carriage, and the sickly yellow light falls upon the face of some wrinkled old man who has closed his eyes from fear. All beside is dark—nothing is visible but that hid-eous face in the distance. At first he appears like a flend, you cannot separate him from the lakes of red fire, the darkness, and the bellowing of the monster. By degrees he becomes a bandit; you have seen just such a face in the caverns in Sa vator Rosa's pictures; then he is dead—his face grows sharp and thin in the yellow light—his eyes move not under the lurid gleam-you are in the tomb with him! By and by you feel the wind of heaven upon your cheek—the daylight breaks in upon you, and you are again rolling between upheaved banks, or on the brown backs of massy arches—rubbing the flakes of soot from your face. or writhing under some sharp particle which has chosen your eye for an abiding place; you seem a vexation at being beaten, it blows with all its might as if it would lift the heavy train from the ground.

# "UNTIDY SPEECH."

Pronunciation and Mispronunciation in New York City.

To the Editor of The Sun—Sir: You say, relative to the tacking of the letter "r" to the end of words to which it does not belong: "This particular sin against English speech we have not discov ered hereabouts to any alarming extent." At the office where this letter is written (only a few feet distant from THE SUN building) men may

e heard pronouncing "law" "lor"; "saw" "sor"; "Utica," "Uticar," and so on. In Brooklyn, which is doubtless included in the bove "hereabouts," the offending terminal "r" seems to be the rule. My children attended ac

in Brooklyn last winter, where not only scholars, but teachers, were subject to this fault. I recall one curious instance of a Brooklynite who had oc sined New York's habit of leaving off the terminal words where it actually appears, with the rooklyn style of putting it on where it is really minus. He pronounced "car" "cah"; "heart" "hot." and so on. He was talking about a noted singer whom he called "Emmar Thuzby." This is quite as bad as the cockney "'en" which lays heggs."
NEW YORK, June 14.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Often in the pronunciation of proper names the New Yorkers of the present generation show as great a lack of culture as they do in sounding incorrectly other words. It is by no means uncommon to hear the "double o" in name of the President of the United States given the normal English pronunciation of that diphthong, although every New Yorker at least should know that in the name of that family the two "o's" are sounded as "o" in "rose." Equally common is the mispronunciation of the

name "Moore," which is usually spoken as if it was spelt like "moor;" its historic and correct pro nunciation, of course, is "more." NEW YORK, June 15.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir Good for Jersey. I am glad to see some one call attention publicly to what I consider New York's greatest years ago and was particularly struck by the adde "r's" and the "quite some time" expression which is also peculiar to New York and vicinity. I know is also peculiar to New York and Vicinity. I allow a well educated young woman here who says she is employed in a "lawr" office, and I hear myself spoken of as coming from "Minnesotar."

This method of speaking I should judge pre-

valls with about one-half of the native New Yorkers, and the wonderful part of it is that when that attention is called to it they say it is only you on, that they 40 not add the "r." NEW YORK, June 14. WESTERNER.

A Sea Tale. First Octopus-Have a pleasant drive? Second Octopus—Perfectly lovely. He drove seahorse with one arm and hugged me with

EIGHTEEN HOURS TO CHICAGO. JAPANESE ON OUR SHIPS OF WAR. An Explanation by One of the Race in

> New York. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Your correspondent who signs himself "Expert" ridiculously dreads Japanese on American warships and tries to explain, with apparent cleverness, Japanese methods in acquiring knowledge and solving foreign secrecy. L however, cannot agree with him. His explanation is much open to criticism, for he shows his lack of understanding of the position

of the Japanese on American warships.
We do not object to the American restriction of Japanese in its navy as a precautionary measure, but we must disclaim the charge

of treachery upon Japanese.
It is true that Japanese are keen observers in all things, and that there are many intelligent young men of respectable families and of knowledge on American warships. But is by no means an exception in the case of the navy alone. I am sure that you can find more Japanese jurists, economists, poli-ticians, physicians and engineers in your kitchens and pantries than on your warships; and you may be beaten in logical argument by your own servants and may learn a good many things from them on Japanese as well as international affairs, with authority. This, however, does not necessarily mean

that your Japanese servants are looking after your faults or secrecy. They work in the navy or in families for no other reason than for their own financial support, to make a living or in order to secure some education while or after making an ample fund. I may venture to say that the Japanese in the American navy are less educated and less ambitious, on the average, than those on land, because of less chance to make any study while on the sea; they merely enter into the American navy for easy money making. There is no truth whatever in the talk of Japanese naval officers being in the American navy as stewards or cooks.

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Japanese naval officers are, through courtesy, allowed to be disciplined in other navies just as most Japanese naval officers were and are still in English, German and French navies. It is a most difficult task to unveil anything secret on a warship while working as a mere servant, who is restricted from going to any secret or important places, as any one familiar with naval construction knows.

Moreover, a naval officer needs not to smuggle to learn the strength and weakness of a foreign navy, for he is or ought to be able to learn it without. Were Japanese on American men-of-war not merely to make money, but to learn secrecy, why should they work as servants instead of sailors or engineers, which services are also open to all and are of nearest access to the alleged purpose? I assure you that you will hardly find one Japanese sailor or engineer out of a hundred in the American navy:

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Our navy does not pass a man beyond from 17 to 22 years of age, unless in reserve, and therefore those Japanese who were in the American navy would not be allowed in the Japanese navy, as they are generally outside of the age limit.

No wonder Admiral Evans denied the story that he had seen his former servant acting as a commander in the Japanese navy. All talk of such kind is mere gossip of imagination born from the Japanese navy. I hope that all Americans will sleep w a living or in order to secure some education while or after making an ample fund. I may

NEW YORK, June 16.

The Burlington Magazine for June.

The June Burlington, published in America by Robert Grier Cooke, opens with an editorial article on "The Extinction of the Middle Class Collector," in which a terrific burden of responsibility is laid upon the shoulders of the academic painters of the last half of the nineteenth century, who are held to have drugged the market with undeserving wares whose prices have tumbled from the precipice of their market in the '60s and '70s. All readers may not agree that the remedy suggested would create a new army of middle class col-

lectors. ingly interesting article on "Tempera Painting," about which art so little is known generally, and to the scant literature of which access is difficult. Mr. Fry mentions as an instance of the ignorance of a former generation in regard to the matter that until Ruskin found Mrs. Herringham copying in tempera at the National Gallery, and asked her what she was about, he was under the impression that Botticelli and all the Italian primitive

painted in oils. There is an appreciative article on the late Constantin Meunier by Prof. R. Petrucci, well known Belgian authority, followed by an equally interesting one on "Meunier's Aim and Place in the Art of the Nineteenth Cen

tury," by Mr. Charles Ricketts. The articles of few writers whose worl embodies careful research have attracted more attention among connoisseurs than those on Early French Poroelain, by Mr. C.  $H_4$ Wylde, whose contribution to the Burlington is taken up with the subject of "Pate-tendre," illustrated by reproductions of specimens in the superb collection of Mr. J. H. Fitz Henry. Sir Edward Maunde Thompson, director

magnificent illuminated manuscripts which were bequeathed to the Museum by the late Baron Ferdinand Rothschild. Mr. R. S. Clouston continues his articles on Minor English Furniture Makers of the Eighteenth Century, with an exhaustive account of the little known but deserving work of Shearer. In this number Mr. Herbert

Home concludes his interesting biography

of the British Museum, describes one of the

numbers. Readers of the Burlington on this side of the water will welcome the introduction of a department of American notes and of current ar exhibitions in America, and will observe with interest the addition of the name of Dr. George F. Kunz to the list of the members of the

Private Residences in New York.

From the Real Estate Record and Guide. During the first six months of 1904 plans were led for only 30 private dwellings to be erected at an estimated cost of \$946,000, while during the whole twelve months of that year plans were filed for only 60 dwellings, which were estimated to cost \$2.134.500. So far during 1905 plans have been filed for 57 dwellings, which are estimated to cos \$2,946,000. Just as during 1904 the building of private dwellings in Manhattan touched its lov water mark, so during 1905 it is probable that as many private residences will be built as during any year since 1899-when plans were filed for

It is in the district south of Fifty-ninth street that most money is being spent on new dwellings. In that section 12 new ones are to be erected, almos all by people who are building to occupy them-selves, at a cost of \$1.347,000. On the West Side, on the other hand, the number of dwellings for which plans have been filed is 24, being twice as great, while the cost is only \$743,000, a little over half as much The average cost of each new West Side dwelling s \$30,000, while the average cost of each new dwel ng erected to the east or south of the Park is over

To the Editor of the Sun—Sir: And is the oath feminine such a new thing that it startles "Old Fogy"? Back in the early '80s there was a ball in this city given by those who esteemed themselves some pumpkins, by the provincial standards at least. Thereto came a certain Yale undergraduate who was rectain a constant. who was socially acceptable. In the midst of a waltz his partner, a young lady of popularity and accredited position, suddenly stopped with the remark, "Damn my back hair, it's coming down!" It jarred him for a second: then he replied lacenle illy, "The hell you say:" And the mazy which

HARTFORD, Conn., June 16. Gifts by Mr. John Wanamaker.

From the Christain Intelligencer. Mr. John Wanamaker has given the International Young Men's Association \$100,000, to be used in constructing Christian Association buildings in neather cities. The gift will be used to erect buildings in Kyoto, Japan, Pekin, Chine and Scoule Corea. He has testified his appreciation of what ociation does for young men in missionary countries by previous gifts of buildings in Madras and Calcutta, India.

> Limit of Enthusiasm From the Washington Sta

"I have heard of many cases of enthusiasm over the Japanese victories on land and sea," remarked the Japanese victories on land and sea," remarked an officer at the War Department, "but by far the worst case of the kind that has come under my notice is that of a man in this city who announced that he had fully determined to name his new born son after the Japanese beroes, "Togo Oyama."